

**THE PERSON OF CHRIST IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
FALL 2008**

**RELS SCTR 106 (43371)
FR. S. TASSONE, S.J.**

Texts:

The New American Bible

Raymond E. Brown, *An Introduction to New Testament Christology*

Ben F. Meyer, *The Man for Others* (In Course Notes in Book Store)

Xeroxed Course Notes II and III (In Book Store)

Course Scope:

The course deals with a detailed and systematic investigation into the knowledge Jesus had of himself and his mission and also of how the New Testament writers developed their portrayal of Christ in their evaluation of who he is (Christology) in the light of the Resurrection belief.

Course Objectives:

1. To acquire an understanding of:
 - a) the problem of using the Gospels for historical knowledge about Jesus and the methodology for dealing with this problem.
 - b) the interpretation Jesus had of himself and this mission that is coherent with and intelligible in the Judaism of his time.
 - c) the Early Church's need to interpret Jesus in the light of Easter faith and of the language and expressions used to do this.
2. To gain the ability to:
 - a) distinguish questions pertaining to reason and history from those pertaining to faith.
 - b) distinguish questions pertaining to humanity of Jesus from those pertaining to his divinity (e.g. Jesus knowledge).
 - c) to make informed judgements about interpretation of NT Christology.
3. To acquire an appreciation of:
 - a) the Early Church's experience of Christ through the Spirit in the Community, i.e., Christology was not just an intellectual exercise.
 - b) the different portrayals of Christ in the NT.
 - c) how NT Christology bears on Christian doctrine about God.

Course Set-up:

There will be **two full period written exams** during the term, *Wednesday Oct 15 and Nov 5*. **Six brief quizzes** (basically objectives lasting about ten minutes) are scheduled, Oct 1, Oct 8, Oct 22, Oct 29, Nov 12, Nov 19 A student must take any five of these. Please note, this does not mean taking six and dropping the lowest grade.

To absent oneself from any of the written exams without previous *consultation (not notification)* with the instructor makes one liable to getting a zero, which amounts to a double "F" for the exam. *Exams* are to be taken on the day assigned and it is not to be expected that an exam will be given early or postponed because one has a conflict with another school event, social event, flight plans, etc. *This includes the final exam on Monday December 8th at 1:30 PM.*

The exams involve not just testing for memory but also for understanding and for ability to synthesize material.

No hats worn during exams, please. Also no exit from room until exam is finished.

Grading:

The amount of points achieved (written exam points worth 2:1 to objective points) during the course will be the basis of the course grade (class attendance being presumed). The scale is an adaptation between possible points and actual class achievement. Cheating in any exam during the course results not only in an F for that exam, but also in liability to an F for the whole course (cf. *University Bulletin*.)

Class Attendance:

Achieving the purpose of the course is not met simply by taking the exams but also by attending and participating in the classes. Thus, as stated in the *University Bulletin*, attendance at all classes is required.

Any absence should only be for an emergency.

Two emergency absences are permitted without any loss of grade.

After that, i.e., beginning with the third absence, even for an emergency, there is a liability to a lowering of the final course grade according to the following scale of minimum deduction:

3 = -0.1

5 = -0.5

7 = -2.0

4 = -0.3

6 = -1.0

8 = -3.0

The minimum requirement for attendance is not only physical presence in class but also attention to the material being presented and class participation. Thus, attempting to study or read other texts or material will be counted an absence.

Also, please: —keep cell phones off during class and put away (not to be on desk)

—do not use lap tops during class for notes.

----do not have iPods or other electronic devices on desk or in use.

Tardiness is not acceptable and each time one is tardy a quarter absence will be assessed. Please take care of personal needs before class so as not to have exit during class which is disruptive.

Office Hours: (Kenna 315) Monday and Wednesday 3:00 PM -4 PM

Phone: (Jesuit Res. 801 Franklin): 554-4124 Kenna: 554-4595 **E-Mail-** stassone@scu.edu

Class Hours: MWF 9:15 AM- *Person of Christ in the New Testament* -Kenna 111

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The following schedule indicates on what days the *completed* assignments are to be discussed.

WEEK OF:	MONDAY	WEDNESDAY	FRIDAY
Sept 22-26	Class Begins	Brown, v-vi, 3-15	Brown, 23-33 (top)
Sept 29-Oct 3	Brown, 33-44 (middle)	Brown, 44-59 <i>Quiz 1</i>	Brown, 60-70
Oct 6-10	Course Notes on Miracles	Brown, 159-161 71-80 (to B), <i>Quiz 2</i>	Brown, 80-89 (to C)
Oct 13-17	Brown, 89-102	EXAM	Brown, 162-170
Oct 20-24	Brown, 105-115	Brown, 116-132 (omit 121-125) <i>Quiz 3</i>	Brown, 133-141
Oct 27-31	Brown, 121-125	Brown, 202 (Dreyfus)-213 <i>Quiz 4</i>	Brown, 192-195
Nov 3-7	Brown, 142-152	EXAM	<i>The Sources About Jesus</i>
Nov 10-14	Meyer, 7-28	Meyer, 29-48, <i>Quiz 5</i>	Meyer, 49-71
Nov. 17-21	Meyer, 73-92	Meyer, 93-109, <i>Quiz 6</i>	Meyer, 111-127
No. 24-28	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY	HOLIDAY
Dec 1-5	Meyer, 129-134	Meyer, 134-144	Meyer, 145-153